

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ADDIS 11098 161603Z

42

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 NEA-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07

H-03 INR-11 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01

SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 OPR-02 A-01 SY-04 OC-06 CCO-00

SCS-03 SCA-01 PER-05 USSS-00 AID-20 CU-05 NIC-01

ACDA-19 OMB-01 TRSE-00 SCCT-02 DRC-01 /204 W

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R 161517Z SEP 74

FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1078

INFO AMCONSUL ASMARA

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MASERU

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

USCINCEUR

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE ADDIS ABABA 11098

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS PINT ET

SUBJECT: RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN ETHIOPIA

1. CURFEW NOW 2300 TO 0500 EFFECTIVE 14 SEPT.

2. REPORTS REACHING EMBASSY INDICATE DESSIE AND NEKEMPTE REMAIN QUIET. HAVE BEEN UNABLE TO GET THROUGH TO OTHER CENTERS TODAY BUT HAVE NO RPT NO REPORTS OF ANY DISTURBANCES.

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3. RADIO ETHIOPIA REPORTS PROCLAMATION ON EMAC (SEPTTEL).

4. AFCC/E BROADCAST ON RADIO ETHIOPIA 1400 HRS LOCAL ASSURED FOREIGN BUSINESSMEN EPMG WOULD NOT NATIONALIZE THEIR ASSETS AND ENCOURAGED THEM TO CONTINUE BUSINESS AS USUAL.

5. EVENING 15 SEPT. SIX TELEVISION SETS PLACED VARIOUS POINTS IN ADDIS FOR SPECIAL SHOWING OF BBC FILM OF WOLLO DROUGHT. ACCORDING USIS OFF, FILM NOW "IMPROVED" TO SHOW SCENES OF STARVING AND DEAD BABIES CONTRASTED WITH LAVISH IMPERIAL LIFE. SOME SOURCE REPORTED THOUSANDS OF ANGRY PEOPLE ROAMING STREETS AFTER VIEWING FILM.

6. AFTERNOON SEPT. 16 DEMONSTRATIONS REPORTED AREA NEAR UNIVERSITY ORIGINATED BY TEFARI MAKONNEN. SEC. SCHOOL STUDENTS LATER JOINED BY HSIU STUDENTS SHOUTING "DOWN WITH MILITARY RULE, DOWN WITH IMPERIALISM." ESTIMATED 400-500 STUDENTS PRESENT UNTIL DEMONSTRATION BROKEN UP BY ARMED POLICE/SOLDIERS USING WATER CANNON. MILITARY/POLICE PRESENCE HEAVY IN ARAT KILO - SIDIST KILO AREA (NEAR U) INCLUDING JEEP MOUNTED LIGHT MG'S AND FIRE TRUCKS. FOUR STUDENTS REPORTEDLY TAKEN IN FOR QUESTIONING. CELU SPOKESMAN IN PRESS CONFERENCE REPORTEDLY SUPPORTED STUDENT DEMANDS; FULL REPORT TO FOLLOW.

COMMENT: APPARENT FAILURE OF STUDENTS IN COUNTRYSIDE TO RECEIVE WORD OF REGISTRATION POSTPONEMENT, SWELLING STUDENT PRESENCE IN CITY AND ENHANCING REACTION TO RAPIDLY EVOLVING RUMORS OF HSIU'S IMMINENT OPENING OR CLOSING. AFCC/EMAC'S FIRST CHALLENGE WILL BE TO ORGANIZE STUDENT ACTIVITIES WHETHER IN COUNTRYSIDE OR IN SCHOOLS. TEACHERS IN URBAN CENTERS SAID ALSO TO BE EXPRESSING OPPOSITION TO MILITARY MOVEMENT'S DEVELOPMENT MOBILIZATION PLANS. CELU POSTURE COULD PROVE COMPLICATING FACTOR.

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